

Call to any of these 8 countries can be made from any telephone with STD/ISD facility by dialling the above access codes. The service will also be available on dedicated telephones installed at important places of tourist interests, Air Ports, Five Star Hotels and Telephone Bureaus.

2. On dialling the required code, the call will be answered by the operator at the distant and who will put through the call to the required number on "Collect Call" basis after confirmation from the called number. In respect of calls to USA, AT&T cards can be used.
3. The tariff for each effective call from a dedicated phone will be Rs. 10/- and in case in Dial-up calls the charges will be one metering unit per effective calls.

Improvement of Telephone Facilities in North Bengal Area

1663. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to improve telephone facilities in North Bengal area; and

(b) the details of the work done in the above area?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The large and medium capacities telephone exchanges in North Bengal area have been planned for replacement by electronic exchanges dur-

ing the 8th plan period along with provision of STD facilities. In addition, most of the small exchanges are also planned for replacement by electronic exchange progressively during the 8th Plan period.

(b) Details of the work done in the above area is as under:-

- (i) STD facilities have been introduced at Siliguri, Darjeeling, Coochbehar, Kalimpong, Kurseong, Bagdogra, Malda, Raniganj and Balurghat.
- (ii) Exchange capacities at Coochbehar, Siliguri, Kalimpong, Kurseong, Bagdogra, Malda and Balurghat have been increased to meet the demands during the last few years.
- (iii) A 600 lines auto exchange has been commissioned at Raniganj with STD facility replacing the manual exchange.
- (iv) 19 smaller electronic exchanges have been commissioned.

[Translation]

Pension to Widows Handicapped and Old Aged

1664. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quota for all the Members of Parliament to recommend pension to widows, handicapped and old age pension